

# OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 37 *Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners* April 1997

## NORMA JEAN CROY IS FREE!!

After several days of nerve wracking suspense and 19 years of incarceration **Norma Jean Croy is free.** We officially received word at 8:30 AM on February 7th and her lawyer, several friends, and supporters from the Norma Jean Croy Defense Committee met her at Chowchilla, CA prison at 1:30 PM when she was released.

Congratulations to Norma Jean and the Defense Committee for enduring almost 2 decades of stress, endless paperwork, bureaucracy, fundraising, raising public awareness, and injustice -all to get to this defining moment in history. We honor your hard work and fortitude, because this is one of the few instances of justice for Indigenous peoples - thank you for all your incredible work and strong spirit.

### CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE

#### JULY 1978, YREKA, SISKIYOU COUNTY

Norma Jean Croy and her brother Patrick Hooty Croy and three other relatives stopped at a convenience store before going hunting near their Grandmother's cabin outside of town. Following an altercation started by the store clerk, Yreka police chased their car as they headed out of town. When the car stopped at the cabin and as Norma and her companions ran away, police fired, hitting Norma in the back. Norma's cousin, Darrell was also shot as he stood up to surrender. Norma's brother Hooty was shot in the back twice before he turned and fired one shot from a .22 hunting rifle, which struck the officer in the heart.

#### 1979, PLACER COUNTY

Norma and her four companions were charged with

first degree murder of the police officer and related offenses. Their case was transferred to Placer County for trial because of pretrial publicity. Norma and Hooty were convicted on all counts, even though there was no evidence that Norma fired any weapon. Hooty was sentenced to death; Norma to life in prison.

#### 1985 REVERSAL, CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT

Hooty's death sentence was reversed by the California Supreme court. Norma's appeal had previously been denied by a lower appellate court.

#### 1990, HOOTY'S RETRIAL, SAN FRANCISCO

Following change of venue to San Francisco, Hooty Croy was acquitted of murder and related charges on grounds of self-defense. The trial judge stated, "...had Norma Jean Croy been tried in the case I heard, she would have been found not guilty."

#### 1993, SACRAMENTO

Norma and her lawyers filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in federal court in Sacramento. The judge ordered the State attorney general to respond to the petition.

#### 1994

In February, the attorney general finally responded to the petition. Norma's lawyers filed a reply for a judge to decide if an evidentiary hearing (to see if Norm's original trial was fair) was warranted.

In December 1994, Norma was denied parole for the sixth time. The parole board refused to hear evi-



*Norm after her release in February*

dence of her innocence that had been presented at Hooty's trial.

#### 1996

Clinton signed the anti-terrorism bill and the attorney general raised this issue in court which halted Norm's case. Our lawyers yelled at the attorney general and he capitulated and said that he would withdraw the anti-terrorism bill issue if Norma Jean would agree not to

*see Norm p. 2 OOT*

## OUT OF CONTROL

Lesbian Committee to Support  
Women Political Prisoners and POWs



Sun, April 13th  
5 to 9 PM



Donation \$7 - \$10 - MORE

Come celebrate  
10 YRS  
with us  
Dance & Comedy  
DJ: EVOL-E  
COMEDY: LISA GEDULDIG  
and who knows?

BAHIA CABANA  
1600 Market @ Franklin

entrance wheelchair accessible  
-restrooms?



Out of Time  
c/o Out of Control Lesbian Committee  
3543--18th Street, Box 30  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
e-mail: outoftime@igc.apc.org



## Norm is Free !

cont'd from p. 1 OOT

have an evidentiary hearing, and allow the magistrate judge to decide the issue based only on the papers submitted.

In December the judge decided he did not need to see any papers, and signed an order to overturn Norma Jean's convictions because of poor counsel at the first trial, evidence that was not submitted, etc. The attorney general had 30 days to reverse his decision to turn this over to the judge, and the D.A. in Siskiyou County had 60 days to decide to retry Norma Jean. None of that happened so after 19 years Norma Jean is free!

### NORMAJEANCROYVICTORYPARTIES!!!!

There have been several parties and events to celebrate Norma Jean Croy's release from prison. On February 28th she was honored at Elk, Native women's benefit for Bear Lincoln. In San Francisco on March 8 at the IWD event sponsored by CA Coalition for Women Prisoners, Norm received a standing ovation. On March 16 she was on hand for the John Trudell Benefit for Big Mountain and on March 21 a potluck and celebration was held in her honor at Pier 5 in San Francisco. We passed the hat to help Norma Jean get settled in the "free" world and start her "shadetree" mechanics business. Any of you who can help with more contributions please call 415-986-5591.

NORM says: "It's great to be out here... thanks to all of you for all your support over the years..."



Norma Jean Croy at home in Oakland, CA

## SEXUAL ABUSE IN PRISONS

The justice department filed suit against the states of arizona and michigan last month, alleging that female inmates at their state-run prisons have been subjected to unlawful invasions of privacy and sexual assaults by guards.

The lawsuits ask for a court order requiring that the two states protect female inmates from rape, sexual assault and other improper sexual contact by members of the prison staff; this includes improper viewing of inmates while showering, changing or using toilet facilities.

The department began looking at the two women's prisons in michigan (1200 inmates) in 1994 and the three prisons in arizona (1000 inmates) in 1995 after receiving complaints of sexual misconduct. Department officials said both states refused to cooperate in the investigation and a settlement could not be reached. Meanwhile women continue to be sexually abused in these (and all other) prisons. (See related story on page 4, OOT.)

There is currently a lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons brought by three women who were raped by male inmates at the Federal prison in Dublin, CA. The suit alleges these was an organized ring of guards who sold women prisoners like sex slaves, taking money from inmates in return for sexual access to women prisoners.

The Fire Inside is a newsletter of the California Coalition for Women Prisoners. A future issue will focus on sexual violence and the ways it affects women behind bars. They are asking for stories, letters and information. Write them at 100 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102.

The National Women's Law Center Women in Prison Project has also done work on this issue. They have surveyed all 50 states regarding sexual harassment of women in prison and produced a 30 page pamphlet; they are working on another concerning effective resistance strategies which will be available in April. Write them at Women in Prison Project, National Women's Law Center, 11 Dupont Circle, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036, 202-588-5180.



## Women on Stilts Help Celebrate S.F. International Women's Day

San Francisco's torchlight I.W.D. march Friday night was dedicated to Judi Bari and all women fighting cancer. A good time was had by all who celebrated I.W.D. at the benefit to support California's women prisoners fighting for their right to decent medical care. Thanks to the three former prisoners who gave testimonials, and Lorna Aquino-Chui of Riot Act Theater, Chrystos, Rebecca Riots and all who spoke.

## MORE GOOD NEWS

**Barbara Curzi is off parole!!!**  
**Donna Willmott is out of the half-way house!!**





# OUT OF TIME

## Mumia Art Show A Success

Art Against the Death Penalty, the Mumia Art Show hung at New College in San Francisco for the month of February, raised over \$3500 for Mumia's defense. About 1000 people visited the show and attended the programs co-sponsored by New College, Mumia Art Show Women's Group and various local organizations. The art show's visit to the S.F. Bay Area was initiated by women Prisoners of War and political prisoners at Dublin, CA Federal Prison. Thanks to all who helped make this event a huge success.

Meanwhile in Pennsylvania the supreme court continues to show a bias favoring the prosecution. In February the court ruled to allow the D.A. to file a fourth brief even though Rules of Court permit only three and to deny any oral arguments in the hearing for Mumia's retrial. The defense will be denied the right to present a final summary of the entire case, which includes 22 Constitutional violations. And the violations continue including, trying to force Mumia to cut his hair, tampering with his legal mail, and preventing visits with an attorney handling his civil case. Supporters of Mumia are asking that we write letters in his defense to the supreme court justices in PA.

Addresses: Honorable John P. Flaherty, Jr.  
or Honorable Russell Nigro  
Pennsylvania Supreme Court  
1818 Market St. Suite 3205  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Hon. Frank J. Montemuro, Jr.  
ARA Tower #2850  
1101 Market St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Honorable Ralph J. Cappy  
PA Supreme Court  
3130 One Oxford Court  
Pittsburg, PA 15219

Honorable Ronald Castille  
PA Supreme Court  
1818 Market St. Suite 3730  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Honorable Stephen Zappala  
PA Supreme Court  
2802 Grant Building  
330 Grant St.  
Pittsburg, PA 15219

**Are the accusations that the Black Community is more homophobic than whites based on FACT or MYTH??**

**61% Blacks and 42% whites favor ending the ban on gays in the military. (Gallup Poll, 1993)**

**85% Blacks and 79% whites favor equal rights in terms of job opportunities for gays. (Gallup Poll 1992)**

**61% Blacks and 44% whites favor extending the civil rights laws protecting Blacks to include gays. (Gallup Poll 1993)**

**The Congressional Black Caucus has solidly supported gay rights legislation and in many cases led the fight.**

**Black mayors across the country have supported gay rights.**

source: Keith Boykin's, "One More River to Cross."

### geronimo update

In closing arguments in the March 13th hearing in Simi Valley, Johnny Cochran denounced u.s. govt. informant Julio Butler as a perjurer, and a coniving snake. New evidence and witnesses substantiating fbi complicity in framing geronimo will now be weighed by Judge Dickey on whether geronimo gets a new trial. We are still awaiting his decision, hoping it will be soon, after 25 years of illegal imprisonment.

## Spring Break for Political Prisoners - Jericho '98

There is a CALL for all progressive and revolutionary groups to organize a national mobilization and demonstration at the White House to demand amnesty for U.S. political prisoners. As the result of the illegal FBI Cointelpro operations, many of these political prisoners have been in prison over 20 years.

This campaign is being initiated by Jalil A. Muntaquin (Anthony Bottoms) of the New York Three (1971) imprisoned in Napanoch for activities in the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. He's been in prison for 25 years. College students and other grassroots organizations are encouraged to participate by giving up one day during Spring Break '98 to march and demonstrate at the White House to demand amnesty for political prisoners. Leaflets are being circulated nationally and internationally to educate and mobilize people "out of the doldrums of apathy...toward activism and action."

The NALF, Republic of New Africa, NYC Mumia Coalition, MOVE, Anarchist Black Cross Federations, NOGL and others will be organizing groups. For more information you can write to Jalil Muntaquin (A. Bottom) #77A4283, Box 338, Napanoch, NY 12458-0338.

### For Fear of Being Called

In Peru a demonstration  
Against a rise in bread prices  
is stopped  
because of threats to denounce  
those who demand bread  
as terrorists.

How greatly we fear language  
an electric cattle prod  
to drive us into corners  
where we cower  
for fear of being called  
terrorists or communists or criminals.

How did we allow those who don't give  
a damn about how we  
the 80% live or die  
to rob us of our language  
to intimidate us into cutting out  
our tongues  
and binding our limbs into lameness?

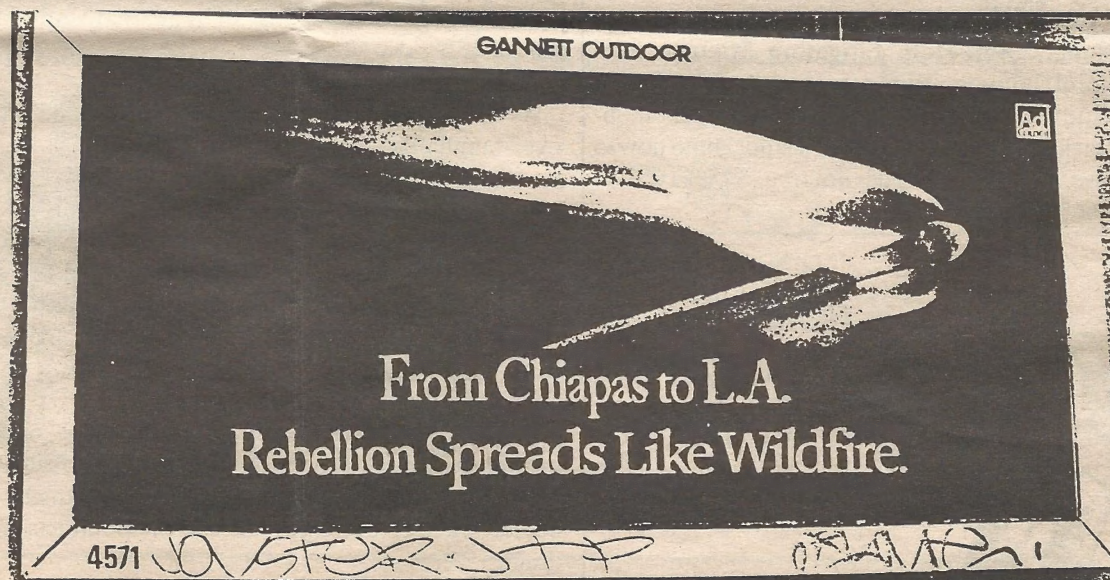
How can we be more afraid  
to be called terrorists  
than to die in the dark  
with no one there to speak for us?

Marilyn Buck February 1996



When the prison doors are opened the real dragon will fly out. Ho Chi Minh

Quilt by Linda Evans 1996





## RESOURCES FOR WOMEN IN PRISON

Thanks to Claudine O'Leary for collecting and checking these listings. They are all current as of six months ago but please let us know if you find any errors or changes.

1. **Legal Services for Prisoners with Children**, 100 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102. Lots of referrals and information.

2. **Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers**, 205 W. Randolph St. Suite 830, Chicago, IL 60606. Support and assistance, mostly local.

3. **The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents**, 714 W. California Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91105. Collection of articles about the effect of the criminal 'justice' system on families; free copies to prisoners.

4. **Body Memories**, 2319 N. 45th St. #230, Seattle, WA 98103. Radical perspectives on child sexual abuse and being a survivor.

5. **WORLD**, PO Box 11535, Oakland, CA 94611. Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases; news and personal stories from women with HIV and AIDS.

6. **PWA-RAG**, PO Box 2161, Jonesboro, GA 30237. Newsletter for Prisoners With AIDS.

7. **Women's Project**, 2224 S. Main St. Little Rock, AR 72206. Many projects including a newsletter "Transformations".

8. **Hikane: The Capable Woman**, PO Box 841 Gret Barrington, MA 01230. Journal for disabled lesbians and their women friends.

9. **Feminist Voices**, PO Box 853, Madison, WI 53701 Local women's paper from Madison.

10. **Sojourner**, 42 Seaverns, Jamaica Plains, MA 02130. Women's paper from Boston with national news.

11. **Sharing Secrets**, a collection of prose and poetry by survivors of violence against women. The contributors are a very diverse group; old, young, Hawaiian, puerto Rican, Japanese, Korean, European. Write Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 98-939 Moanalua Road, Aiea, HI 96701. Copies are free, shipping is \$2. for the 1st copy and \$1. each additional copy.

12. **Prisoners' Self-Help Litigation Manual**. Provides helpful commentary and thousands of citations to statutes and case law to prisoners considering their options for tackling prison conditions. It is not about how to win release. Unfortunately it is not free - \$45.00. Call 1-800-992-6656 (NOLO Press)



**REMEMBER  
OOC'S PARTY  
APRIL 13TH!!  
see front page**



Tommy T-Shirts are printed on high quality 100% cotton Hanes Beefy Tees, \$15, plus \$2 Shipping/Handling

### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Size M \_ L \_ XL \_ XXL  
Qty \_\_\_\_\_  
Please mail the above with check or money order to  
NCX, P.O. Box 1226, Occidental, CA 95465

## Report from Valley State Prison for Women SHU

by Sharon Sadler with SHU prisoners, past and present

Over the last 18 months, a group of legal investigators from the Pelican Bay Information Project made four trips to Valley State Prison for Women, which is half of Chowchilla Prison complex to interview prisoners about abusive conditions. What follows is a summary of their findings.

Approximately half of the guards on duty are male. Upon any movement a woman is subject to a full strip search. This includes the instructions to "bend over, spread and cough, squat and cough three times." Strip searches are officially overseen by female officers but male staff can and do observe strip searches. There is an inside gun module in every unit from which the guard can see all the cells. Over-familiarity is never reported. While showering or on the toilet, inmates are in view of the guards. A young inmate told us of harassment she had to endure over many months: he breathed on her cell-door glass, made vulgar sounds, used crude sexual language, etc.

If a woman decides to speak out about staff advances by 602ing (administrative appeal) retaliation can consist of further SHU time, withholding of food, bedding, medication, and/or general singling out by guards to intimidate her.

As one interviewee stated, "[He] was walked off for over-familiarity with inmates, but now he's back."

Meds or "chemical shackles," as one ex-inmate describes them, are prescribed to "anyone who wants them" after a 5-25 minute interview with a psychiatrist, or by the verbal recommendation of an intake nurse. Often they are prescribed in tandem, i.e. one for anxiety, one for depression.

Many of these drugs can cause liver damage, or over prolonged use, TDK or Tardive-Dyskenesia, a usually permanent involuntary movement disorder. Inmates are not informed of the long or short-term side effects of the drugs.

## Nuh's Case

Albert Nuh Washington has been imprisoned for the last 25 years because of his activities in the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army. He was wrongly convicted in the death of two New York City police officers in 1971. The state has kept Nuh isolated in prisons far from family, friends, and lawyers, and denied him basic privileges given even to other political prisoners and prisoners of war because he is classified as a "security risk", despite the fact that he has not had a major write-up in over 12 years.

Nuh and his co-defendants, Anthony Jalil Bottom and Herman Bell (the New York Three), have fought their case since conviction on several grounds:

- 1) The recantation of a witness who had been tortured by the police;
- 2) the withholding of evidence favorable to the defense; and
- 3) Perjury on the part of a police witness who gave key testimony.

The courts have denied all motions put forward so far, and a federal judge would not accept evidence that another witness had lied with the knowledge and consent of the DA. The lawyers who did the habeas corpus are no longer involved in the case. The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) agreed two years ago to file papers for Nuh and his co-defendants, and this work is continuing. In the meantime, Nuh has discovered that an appeal on his individual issues, denied on appeal, has good grounds for a rehearing. Among these are that in the original trials, Nuh was allowed to represent himself, he was excluded from conferences in chambers between both the judge and the lawyers and between the judge and key prosecution witnesses who testified on material aspects of the case.

Nuh has a problem: the CCR is committed to doing the joint petition for the Three, and no other attorney will do Nuh's individual case without being paid. Nuh makes only 75 cents a day, five days a week; he needs to hire an attorney to file the papers which on the law, say Nuh's case must be reversed.

Won't you please help Nuh? Whatever you can contribute will be greatly appreciated; it could help free one of the longest-held political prisoners in the United States.

**Please send postal money orders or checks to:**

**Albert Nuh Washington #77-A-1528  
Clinton Correctional Facility  
PO Box 2001  
Dannemora, NY 12929-2001**

Other problems result from the fact that they are improperly dispensed. "Due to the abundance of medication given, most inmates simply sleep through breakfast and lunch (which is delivered with breakfast), taking noon medications on empty stomachs which many times makes them sick."

VSPW has no psychiatric housing unit as is mandated in Title 15. The prison routinely mistreats women with psychiatric problems.

**Info. contacts:** CA Coalition for Women Prisoners, PO Box 14844, SF, CA 94114; Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, 100 McAllister, SF, CA 94102; HIV/AIDS in Prison Project of Catholic Charities, 433 Jefferson St., Oakland, CA 94607.